

QUALIFICATION FOR ADMISSION TO PRACTICE LAW IN CALIFORNIA THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE LAW STUDY

The requirements for admission to practice law in California are contained in the *Rules Regulating Admission to Practice Law in California (Rules)*. The following is a summary of the requirements for students qualifying for admission to practice law in California through correspondence law study. For the specific requirements, refer to the *Rules*.

To be admitted to practice law in California, an applicant must comply with the requirements outlined in the *Rules*, which include: 1) obtaining the required pre-legal education before beginning the study of law; 2) completing the requisite legal education; 3) registration as a law student; 4) passing the First-Year Law Students' Examination, unless exempt from taking the examination; 5) receiving a positive moral character determination; 6) passing the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination; and, 7) passing the California Bar Examination. Additionally, an applicant must not be certified by the State Department of Social Services as being in non-compliance with a court ordered child or family support obligation. There is no requirement of citizenship or residency.

Applicants may qualify to take the California Bar Examination by studying law for four years through a correspondence law school that is registered with the Committee of Bar Examiners. A minimum of 864 hours of preparation and study per year is required. Refer to Rule VII, Section 4 of the *Rules* for the specific requirements pertaining to such study.

Refer to Rules XIX and XX of the *Rules* and Rule 957 of the California Rules of Court for the requirements required for registration as a correspondence law school. Credit will not be allowed for study that does not comply with the requirements of the *Rules*.

In accordance with Rule V, Section 1 of the *Rules*, law students must register with the Committee of Bar Examiners within ninety days after beginning their law study. Registration forms are available from the State Bar's Office of Admissions in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Students studying law through correspondence law study are subject to the First-Year Law Students' Examination. Students may be granted a maximum of two years of law study credit if they take and pass the First-Year Law Students' Examination within three consecutive attempts after first becoming eligible to take it, which is after completion of the their first year of law study credit. Students passing the examination after three attempts will receive only one year of law study. Refer to Rule VIII of the *Rules* for more information concerning the required examinations.

A list of correspondence law schools currently registered with the Committee of Bar Examiners is available upon request.

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